

USDA selects food bank sites

Saving energy

(Continued from Page D5)

That was the figure the energy firm was used to recommending for residences. But the computer showed that following this advice in his mushroom house would never have paid off for the grower in terms of fuel or other savings.

With the model, it's also possible to compare the effect different amounts of compost will have on electrical demand in maintaining house temperatures.

Early last summer Lomax received another grant from AMI — this one for \$13,000 — to prepare a "Mushroom Grower's Energy Audit Guidebook" based on his production model.

The purpose of this guidebook is to help mushroom growers analyze their energy costs. "After you learn about what causes these costs in your mushroom plant, it will be easier to decide how to conserve energy," he says.

The audit procedure outlined in the guidebook takes about an hour for one plant. When it's finished, a grower should be able to say, "Now I know what my electric bill pays for."

The first step is to collect the power ratings and flow rates from all the motors, fuel burners and heaters in the house. Then the grower makes some calculations based on time estimates; and finally compares the total energy calculated with the energy on fuel

and electric bills. The two figures should agree.

"Once you've completed the energy audit for your plant," says Lomax, "you can use this information to improve your energy management." The guidebook discusses some of the ways this can be done.

To show growers how to use the guidebook, the University of Delaware department of agriculture engineering and American Mushroom Institute have scheduled a Mushroom Production Energy Workshop. This will be held Thursday, November 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Clayton Hall on the University's north campus in Newark.

Other topics to be discussed at the workshop include electric company rates, and the effects of insulation and management on energy use. There is no registration fee, but because seating is limited, interested individuals are encouraged to contact county agricultural agents as soon as possible. In New Castle county call 302/738-2506. In Chester county call 215/696-3500; and in Berks County 215/378-1327. Additional information on the workshop is also available by calling Ken Lomax, department of agricultural engineering, University of Delaware 302/738-2468.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has selected three sites for demonstration projects to test the feasibility of providing USDA-donated foods to food banks for emergency distribution to eligible households. Food banks are locally sponsored charitable services which provide food to needy people in emergencies.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Mary C. Jarratt said the sites chosen to take part in the project are: Gleaners Food Bank of Indianapolis, Inc., 851 Indian Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.; The Food Bank, Inc. of Santa Clara County, 312 Brokaw Rd., Santa Clara, Calif.; and Hunger Action

Coalition - Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, P.O. Box 4259, Pittsburgh, Pa.


Food banks were considered for participation in the demonstration project if they have provided emergency food distribution since March 1980. The project is scheduled to begin in November and to continue for one year. Each site is in a different region of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, which administers the food program.

Jarratt said USDA is conducting the project to analyze and evaluate federal participation in food bank emergency food programs, assess the effectiveness of such participation and make recom-

mendations on the feasibility of continuing such participation.

The food bank demonstration project is authorized by the Agricultural Act of 1980. Under the project, USDA will provide instant non-fat dry milk, butter and processed American cheese to participating sites. These items will be used to supplement food-stuffs obtained by the food banks from other sources.

USDA will also review participation data, food donation and inventory data, and transportation and delivery costs, to evaluate the project. The results of the evaluation will be reported to Congress by Oct. 1, 1982.



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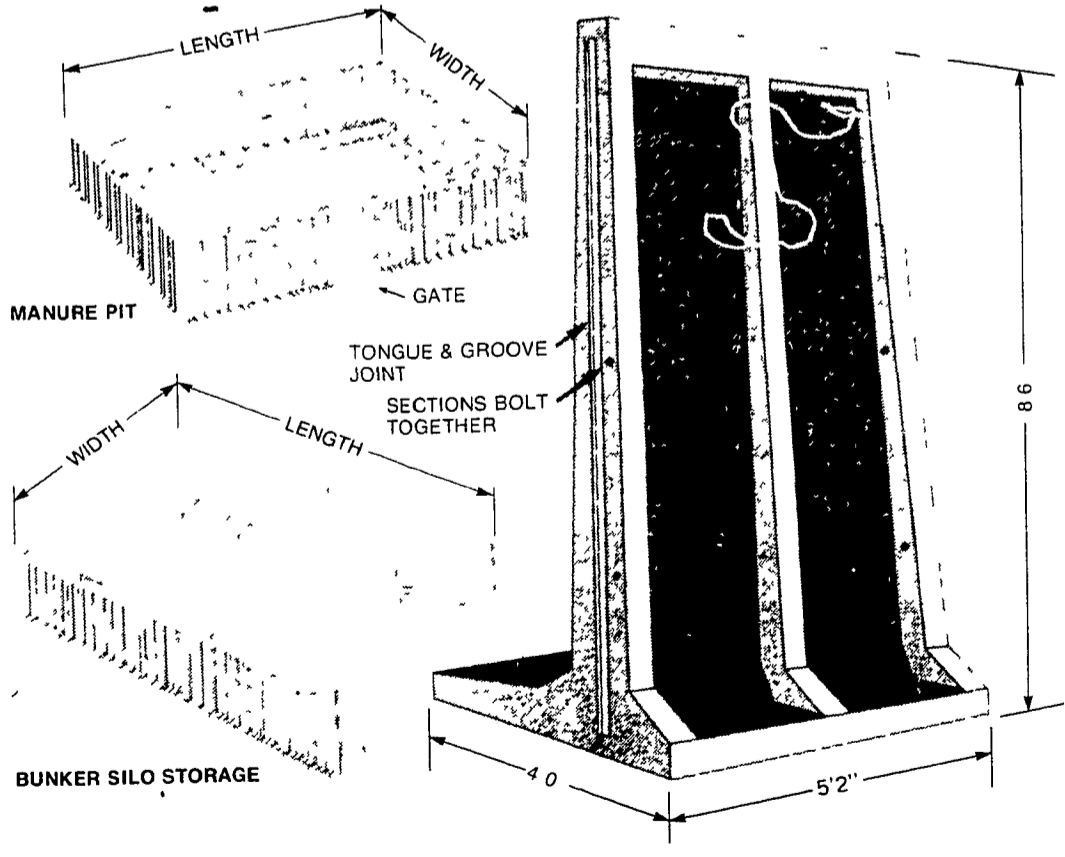
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